

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 7, 19, 30, and 41, and 47-56 are cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-29, 31-40, 42-46, and 57-58 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 2, 4, 14, 16, 26, 28, 37, and 39 have been amended solely to provide proper antecedence and to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 1-46, 57, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Waldvogel ("The VersaKey Framework: Versatile Group Key Management", IEEE Journal On Selected Areas In Communications, Vol. 17, No. 9, September 1999, Pgs. 1614-1631), and claims 10, 22, 33, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldvogel.. Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over Waldvogel.

For example, amended claim 1 calls for:

the encryption key generating data being renewable using a key renewal block and at least one key selected from the group consisting of the corresponding leaf key and the portion of the plurality of node keys, the key renewal block including encrypted data and tag data, the encrypted data being derived from encryption of renewed encryption key generating data and the selected at least one key, and the tag data indicating locations in the hierarchical tree structure whose associated keys are encrypted within the encrypted data[.] (Emphasis added.)

The Waldvogel article is described in the Amendment dated May 11, 2006. Waldvogel does not disclose or suggest tag data indicating locations in the hierarchical tree structure whose associated keys are encrypted within the encrypted data.

It follows that Waldvogel does not disclose or suggest the combination called for in claim 1 and does not anticipate the claim.

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 depend from claim 1 and are distinguishable over Waldvogel for at least the same reasons.

Independent claims 13, 25, 36, 57, and 58 each include limitations similar to those set out above in claim 1. Therefore each of claims 13, 25, 36, 57, and 58 are distinguishable for at least the reasons set out above regarding claim 1.

Claims 14-18 and 21-24 depend from claim 13, claims 26-29 and 31-35 depend from claim 25, and claims 37-40 and 42-46 depend from claim 36. Therefore each of these claims is distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reasons set out above.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

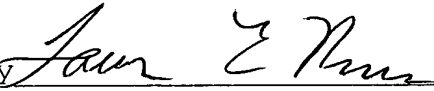
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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